

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented user interface configuration method, for configuring a ~~the~~ user interface of a software application and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application pro-
gram marker associated with one of the plurality of application
programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one
of the application programs, ~~wherein the application markers in-~~
~~clude markers for the plurality of different applications;~~

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system
marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system;
assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers
and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted op-
erating system markers and a subset of the weighted application
program markers;

determining a user proficiency level with respect to [[a]] the user interface
of the software application and user interface of the operating sys-
tem, based upon the weighted score; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user in-
terface of the software application and at least one functional com-
ponent of the user interface of the operating system responsive to
the user proficiency level.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises:

selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

enabling access to a functional user interface element;
disabling access to a functional user interface element; and
changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises:

providing a set of functions including:
enabling access to a command;
disabling access to a command;
changing an appearance of a command;
enabling access to a menu;
disabling access to a menu;
changing an appearance of a menu;
enabling access to a button;
disabling access to a button;
changing an appearance of a button;
enabling access to a shortcut; and
disabling access to a shortcut; and

selecting at least one of the provided functions to configure the functional component.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a notification of a change to user interface configuration.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a notification of at least one newly enabled user interface feature.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the user interface are performed responsive to a trigger event.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises user input requesting user interface configuration.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises application startup.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises system startup.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises a change in user behavior with respect to the user interface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises user logon.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface are performed periodically.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises reading a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one marker.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the marker indicates historical usage of the user interface.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining whether a user interface element has been used.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining whether a user interface element has been used a number of times exceeding a predetermined threshold.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining a total amount of time spent by a user using an application.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining how many applications are open concurrently.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining a historical average number of concurrently open applications.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining how many windows are open concurrently.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining a historical average number of concurrently open windows.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining a user-specified preference indicating a proficiency level.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining web page visitation patterns.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining historical usage of secure web pages.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises determining historical usage of web pages having active content.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining the user proficiency level comprises determining the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface; and
automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises automatically configuring the user interface component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining the user proficiency level comprises determining the user proficiency level with respect to an application; and
automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface comprises automatically configuring the user interface for the application.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to user behavior with respect to the user interface, storing a
marker indicating a user proficiency level;
and wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises reading the
stored marker.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the marker is performed by a first application; and
reading the stored marker is performed by a background process.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the marker is performed by a first application; and
reading the stored marker is performed by a second application different
from the first application.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the marker is performed by an operating system; and
reading the stored marker is performed by the operating system.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein:

automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the
user interface comprises modifying functional user interface ele-
ments that are supplied to a plurality of applications.

41. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the marker is performed by an operating system; and
reading the stored marker is performed by an application.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises retrieving a plurality of stored markers and aggregating the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting user input overriding the user interface configuration and specifying a desired configuration; and
responsive to the user input, configuring the user interface according to the desired configuration.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface comprises determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and
automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises automatically configuring at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.

46. (Currently amended) A computer program product for configuring a user interface of a software application and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer program code, encoded on the medium, which the code is executed by the computer system, for:

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs, wherein the application markers include markers for the plurality of different applications;

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system;

assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers;

determining a user proficiency level with respect to [[a]] the user interface of the software application and the user interface of the operating system, based upon the weighted score;
and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the software application and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.;

47. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for:

selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

computer program code for enabling access to a functional user interface element;
computer program code for disabling access to a functional user interface element; and
computer program code for changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

49. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface:

computer program code for enabling access to a command;
computer program code for disabling access to a command;
computer program code for changing an appearance of a command;

computer program code for enabling access to a menu;
computer program code for disabling access to a menu;
computer program code for changing an appearance of a menu;
computer program code for enabling access to a button;
computer program code for disabling access to a button;
computer program code for changing an appearance of a button;
computer program code for enabling access to a shortcut; and
computer program code for disabling access to a shortcut.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for performing the determining and configuring steps responsive to a trigger event.

52. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for performing the determining and configuring steps periodically.

53. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for reading a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one marker.

54. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:
- the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level
 - comprises computer program code for determining the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface; and
 - the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for automatically configuring the functional user interface component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.
55. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:
- the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level
 - comprises computer program code for determining the user proficiency level with respect to an application; and
 - the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for automatically configuring the user interface for the application.
56. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising:
- computer program code for, responsive to user behavior with respect to the user interface, storing a marker indicating a user proficiency level;

and wherein the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for reading the stored marker.

57. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for retrieving a plurality of stored markers and aggregating the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:
the computer program code for determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface comprises computer program code for determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and
the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program code for automatically configuring at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.

60. (Currently amended) A system for configuring a user interface of a software application and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of application markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application

programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one
of the application programs, wherein the application markers in-
clude markers for the plurality of different applications;
means for storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating
system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating sys-
tem;
means executed by a computer system for assigning weights to each of the
plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality
of operating system markers;
means executed by the computer system for determining a weighted score
as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers
and a subset of the weighted application program markers;
means executed by the computer system, for determining a user profi-
ciency level with respect to [[a]] the user interface of the software
application ~~or~~ and the user interface of the operating system, based
upon the weighted score; and
means executed by the computer system, for automatically configuring at
least one functional component of the user interface of the software
application and at least one functional component of the user inter-
face of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency
level.

61. (Currently amended) A system for configuring a user interface of a software
application and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the com-
puter system including a plurality of application programs, the system comprising:

a marker storage device for,

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs, wherein the application markers include markers for the plurality of different applications; and

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system;

a user proficiency level determiner, executed by the computer system and coupled to the marker storage device, for assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers; and

determining a user proficiency level with respect to ~~[[a]]~~ the user interface of the software application ~~or~~ and the user interface of the operating system, based upon the weighted score; and

a user interface configuration module, executed by the computer system and coupled to the user proficiency level determiner, for automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the software application and at least one

functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

62. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module comprises program code for performing the functions of:

enabling access to a functional user interface element;

disabling access to a functional user interface element; and

changing an appearance of a functional user interface element; and

wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one of the functions to configure the user interface of the software application and the user interface of the operating system.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module comprises program code for performing the functions of:

enabling access to a command;

disabling access to a command;

changing an appearance of a command;

enabling access to a menu;

disabling access to a menu;

changing an appearance of a menu;

enabling access to a button;

disabling access to a button;

changing an appearance of a button;

enabling access to a shortcut; and
disabling access to a shortcut; and
wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one of the functions to configure the user interface of the software application and the user interface of the operating system.

65. (Cancelled).

66. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level detector and the user interface configuration module operate responsive to a trigger event.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner and the user interface configuration module operate periodically.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner reads a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one marker.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures the at least one functional component of the user interface component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

70. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines the user proficiency level with respect to an application; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures the at least one functional component of the user interface for the application.

71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

a marker storage device, for, responsive to user behavior with respect to the user interface, storing a marker indicating a user proficiency level;

wherein the user proficiency level determiner reads the stored marker from the marker storage device.

72. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner retrieves a plurality of stored markers and aggregates the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

73. (Cancelled).

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.